



Aiea Neighborhood Board No.20 NEWSLETTER



c/o Aiea Library — 99-143 Moanalua Road - Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Editor

February 2005

Ron Mobley,

2003-2005

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Inside this issue:

<i>Letter from the Chair</i>	1
<i>New Neighbor</i>	2
<i>Navy Cleans PCB-contaminated Soils</i>	3
<i>Life of a Board Member</i>	4
<i>Annual Aiea Community Christmas Program</i>	5
<i>The Years in a Nut Shell</i>	6

Letter from the Chair

By Bill Clark



The holiday season is just a memory now. Most of us faced this time of year with a mixture of childhood anticipation and delight coupled with a sense of dread of the added responsibilities and demands of the season. There was holiday shopping to do, parties to plan, sumptuous dinners to prepare, homes to decorate, and cleaning to be done.

There was the continual problem of what to get for whom; of looking for the perfect gift for a special someone or groups of gifts for a whole multitude of folks. Then there was the constant worrying after you purchase the gift whether that was the correct present, would the person like the gift, what if it was the wrong size, what if they didn't like it, and many more thoughts that went through our minds that just added to our stress.

Now we have the bills for the gifts we have bought but I won't expand on that thought.

The holiday season is the time when stress begins to build. Take a deep breath and remember that the holidays are a time of joy and a time for sharing. So next year, heed the age-old adage that "It is better to give than to receive." Next holiday season, reach out, not to just your family and personal friends, but also in the old-fashioned way, to the larger community of Aiea and beyond. Help build a stronger and better community by giving a little of yourself. Along with the purchase of a gift for someone special in your life, consider also giving in other ways:

- Give airline "miles" to service personnel so they can return home for a visit.
- Donate a car to the Salvation Army, The Kidney Foundation and other charitable organizations.



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- Volunteer to programs like “Meals on Wheels”
and the “Blood Bank” plus many more
(Continued on the next page)

organization.

- Remember the Food Bank, not only during the holiday season but year round
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood or adopt a park or other public area to help keep it beautiful.
- Paint out graffiti in your neighborhood.
- Share your special talents with the elderly and with young people.
- Extend a helping hand to your neighbor.
- Bake cakes or cookies for your church or social club.

Some of you do these kinds of activities now and know the feeling you get when you help others. It is warmth and a feeling of pride that comes from within. Sharing with others feels good, so give yourself the gift of knowing you have been and are a good friend and neighbor.

And most of all, don't forget the people who are with you every day. Your mom and dad, your brothers and sisters, your sons and daughters, your husband or wife...those people who have helped make your life, for the most part, a lot better.

Have a good life and take care of each other.

Mahalo,

Bill Clark, Chair
Aiea Neighborhood Board

New Neighbor

By Tracy Arakaki

What is as tall as the Empire State building, weighs 97,000 tons and cost \$4.5 billion dollars? Need another clue? Ok, whenever there has been a crisis, the first question has been: "Where is it?" No, it's not the city of Aiea but it could be Aiea's newest neighbor, an aircraft carrier.



Several aircraft carriers were temporarily forward-deployed to Hawaii during World War II, but their homeports were in other locations. So for the first time, a ship of such importance to U.S. interests and its commitments may actually be home ported right here at Pearl Harbor. That decision could be reached as soon as this coming May after a new round of recommendations for Base Realignment and closures (BRACs) will have taken place. Even if that decision is made a carrier actually sitting at Pearl Harbor wouldn't arrive for at least five years according to Senator Daniel Inouye.

Although Guam is also being considered, among the numerous advantages that Hawaii has is a higher standard of living and a massive support infrastructure to name just a few which may nullify the only tangible advantage Guam has, is its closer proximity to the region of growing concerns, North Korea and China – Taiwan. Steaming from Hawaii to those key areas already can take five to seven days less than from West Coast ports.

Hawaii has always had a long standing relationship with the US Navy. With its central location and home to Pacific Command many active vessels serving our nation already call Pearl Harbor home. Hawaii has benefited financially both monetarily and in job growth stemming from its strategic importance. How much more could our state benefit if a carrier is stationed here? According to the Navy's spokesperson an aircraft carrier and air wing crew of approximately 6,000 have an annual payroll of more than \$320 million.

With the anticipated growth in personnel and their dependents this will also mean the need for more housing. This will be another boom for Hawaii's construction industry. Additionally, a significant part of the ship's and air wing's supply and logistical needs are purchased through local vendors and millions more will be awarded in maintenance contracts.

Some concerns are over the noise that the jets will create. To reduce the impact once back in port the air wing maybe spread

throughout the state from Barking Sands on Kauai to Barbers Point on Oahu's Leeward Coast. The later of the former Navy bases Barbers Point was closed and returned to the state of Hawaii during the last round of BRACs in 1999.

But now the state is willing to give the base back to the Navy to sweeten the pot to lure the aircraft carrier to Pearl Harbor.

The benefits that will be gained statewide from housing, to vendors who will need to supply everything from food to nuts and bolts, to more jobs for locals who will maintain the vessel or to build housing for the men and women who will serve on the carrier will be tremendous. All will be long term jobs which will help stimulate Hawaii's economy, tremendous growth which this state has not seen in decades.

So in a few months we may be welcoming a new neighbor. One of the crown jewels that symbolize our countries may soon be right in our own backyard.

Ed. Note: Your editor recently had the experience of touring the USS Ronald Reagan. The tour was led by Airman Heather Beckman, a staff journalist who hails from Chandler, Az. The carrier is huge!

Navy Cleans PCB-contaminated Soils

By:
Terri Kojima
Environmental Public Affairs Office
Navy Region Hawaii

Community members learned at a public meeting in Aiea last month that the Navy treated over 44,000 cubic yards of soil containing polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly called PCBs, from 85 sites at various naval installations on Oahu.

The cleanup was conducted using a technologically advanced Thermal Desorption Unit at a centralized treatment plant at the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point at Kalaeloa. The process involved heating the soil to a high temperature, and filtering out contaminants, which were collected for

disposal at an EPA-approved landfill on the mainland. What was left behind were stockpiles of treated soil, much of which were used to backfill the excavated sites.

Some community members attending the citizen advisory board meeting learned how PCB-contaminated soil was processed through the unit's various stages, as they viewed a video of operations taken at the treatment plant. Other members had visited the plant at the start of operations in November 2003 and had high praise for the technology and results.

"It's (thermal desorption) a fascinating approach, which was used to clean the soil," said Ron Mobley, who joined the Pearl Harbor RAB in June.

According to the Navy's project engineer, Janice Fukumoto, the technology was effective and resulted in a cost avoidance of \$24 million.

"It would have cost about \$1,000 to ship one cubic yard of contaminated soil off island, but only \$250 to treat each cubic yard at the unit that was brought in specifically for the project," said Fukumoto.

Normally, the Navy excavates and ships soils containing PCB out-of-state for disposal. This was the first time that the Region used the thermal desorption process.

The process separates the PCBs from the soil by "baking" or indirectly heating the soil to almost 900 degrees, explained Fukumoto. At this temperature PCBs are vaporized. It is then cooled, and reformed into a sludge, which is filtered to separate the water from the contaminants in the solid; while the sterile soil is re-hydrated with water and then stored for reuse.

The soils came from the cleanup of sites that once housed electrical transformers. Prior to 1977, PCBs were commonly used as insulation (or coolant?) in electrical equipment, and over the years some of the fluid leaked into the ground. Today, all Navy transformers containing PCBs have been

replaced by non-PCB transformers said Fukumoto.

The thermal desorption unit was demobilized after successfully treating soils at multiple sites, including 10 sites at Naval Transmitting Facility and Naval Magazine at Pearl Harbor; five sites at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station in Wahiawa; two at Naval Magazine at Waikale; three on the Waipio Peninsula; 10 at former Naval Air Station at Kalaeloa; two at West Loch; one at Iroquois Point and 53 in Pearl Harbor.

Cleanup of other transformer sites that were not included in the thermal desorption project will be conducted as part of the Navy's ongoing Installation Restoration Program, said Peter Nakamura, who manages the region's cleanup initiatives.

Both John Muraoka, who is the RAB Navy co-Chair, and Nakamura agree that the Navy's partnership with the community is important to the success of the cleanup process. Community members were kept informed and involved throughout the PCB Thermal Desorption project through site visits, fact sheets, and information on operations that were discussed at the RAB meetings.

"The board [RAB] meetings, which are open to the public, provide opportunities for community members to provide input on cleanup decisions that affect their community and livelihood," said Muraoka.

According to Mobley, the RAB informs the community of the options the Navy is considering to improve a mess that was created in the past from a spill of oil, or a leak of some chemical, etc.

"Having the community be a part of the cleanup process is extremely healthy," said Mobley. "It helps us [community members] understand what's being done and provides an opportunity to comment when something doesn't sound right."

Navy Region Hawaii has three advisory boards serving the Pearl Harbor, Central Oahu, and Leeward Coast areas. For information please call the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Office at 473-2926 or visit the Region's environmental website at:
<http://www.hawaii.navy.mil/cnbddata/n4/rabpage.htm>

Life of a Board Member

By Ron Mobley

I attended my first official Aiea Neighborhood Board meeting on June 9, 2003 and right away felt at home. I had told myself earlier that since I was new to the board that I should listen and acquaint myself with the order and procedures. Perhaps I should have stayed true to my initial intention, but I have never been the type to hold back.

The first order of business was the selection of our chair for the next two years. It seemed appropriate when Bill Clark was declared the chair again by acclamation. Ho Hum, things are going to work out well.

The next order of business, election of officers, also went well. We quickly settled on Jane Sugimura as First Vice Chair, Wilbert Ho as Second Vice Chair, James Naylor as Third Vice Chair, Nellanette Araki as Secretary, and Sandra Thompson as Treasurer. You know, this job may not be all that bad.

We then in rapid fashion decided that our monthly meeting would be held on the second Monday of each month. The meetings would be at 7:30 p.m., and would be held in the Aiea Library Conference Room. Are things always this easy?

Now we moved to the appointment of Committee Chairs. Bill indicated he preferred volunteers, and named the volunteers in turn. James Naylor – Transportation, Sandra Thompson – Human Services, Bill – Executive, Wilbert Ho – Parks and Recreation, Jane Sugimura – Planning and (Zoning, and then indicated we had no volunteer for the Community Relations and Publicity. During the discussion, and I still don't know how or why, I heard myself volunteering. How can you do this when you don't even know what it entails, but the volunteer statement was accepted. Drat!

Listening to the various reports and topics that followed was a blur, but in reality quite

interesting. In what seemed to be record time the meeting was over. Now we had time to reflect, and think about the next meeting.

I could mention several things that occurred at the next meeting on July 14, but will limit it to one item. The board agreed to recess on August 11, and not meet again until September 8. Yeah!

"So when do we get that month off that voted on?"

That means we are taking off an entire month. Now it is your turn. All of you who believe we did not meet until September hold up your right hand. Yes, you are right! We met again in special session on July 22 to handle some time sensitive business. On August 27 we held a Special meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to lay groundwork for setting goals and objectives for the board for the 2003-2005 term. Okay, when do we get that month off that we agreed to?

September 8 was another more or less routine meeting, but October became another two meeting month. We had another Special meeting to continue discussion of our goals and objectives, and our regular meeting was held on October 13.

All of this was in 2003, As I now approach the end of yet another year, I realize not only that the job is one of responsibility, but one of fun. That is, if you consider working fun.

My friends, when you talk about a working board, you have one this term. Keep

watching the announcements and website to see what happens next. We are on the move.

Annual Aiea Community Christmas Program

The date and time is Sunday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. You are at A'iea Elementary School. Do you know what the occasion is? Those of you who came know, others have guessed from the title of this article. It is the 2004 Annual Community Christmas Program.

Even before the appointed time we knew the event would be well attended. A crowd arrived before the gates were opened.

With a bit of scurrying things were set up, and the program was called to order by A'iea Neighborhood Board 3rd Vice Chair and Public Relations Chair Ron Mobley who welcomed the standing room only crowd and turned the program over to the Masters of Ceremony, Jane Sugimura 1st Vice Chair and Wilbert Ho 2nd Vice Chair.

The first participants were the Rainbow Ringers from the A'iea United Methodist Church. They offered their "Bells of All Seasons" under the leadership of Karen Laflin. Their gift of joy was well received.

Next, some 50 four year olds & Kindergarteners "Santa's Little Helpers" took the stage. Neatly attired, each wearing leis, and with beaming smiles they delighted us with their talents They came to us from St. Timothy's Children's Center and were directed by Dolores Brockman.

"North Pole Exposure" from Waimalu Elementary School, a chorus of grades 4-6, led by Cynthia Casamina was next. The excitement they brought and **the variety of their program simply took our breath away.**

With a rhythmic beat the next group grabbed our attention. Titled "Variety of Polynesian Dances and Songs" and coming From A'iea Elementary School, Na Mele O'Na Kamali'I led by John Honjo lived up to their billing with singing, dancing, and even a ukulele trio.

No matter how much fun you are having the annual affair had to end, but as the audience sang "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" the Jolly Old Elf himself (Thomas Kaaai) arrived. Santa Claus, took time out of his busy schedule to visit with all of the young and young at heart and had goodies for everyone.

Throughout the evening door prizes that were gifts from our Senators, Representatives, and Council members were given to those holding the winning tickets. To say it was a wonderful evening is an understatement. A big Mahalo to all who came to share with us. For those of you who were not there, plan to attend next year. We will be back.



The Rainbow Ringers



Variety of Polynesian Dances and Songs



Santa's Little Helpers



Santa Himself



North Pole Exposure

The Years in a Nut Shell

Although we cannot address all actions taken by your board, an abbreviated list follows:

- Supported Best Buy Purchasing, LLC's proposal to build a new facility along 98-51 – 98-58 Kamehameha Highway. The board offered several recommended modifications to ensure specifications met the Aiea/Pearl City Livable Community Plan, and that the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail was preserved.
- Approved asking the Governor to release funds to purchase lots within the old Aiea Sugar Mill site for a future location for the Aiea Library.
- Approved a resolution supporting the construction of a permanent University of Hawaii – West Oahu campus.
- Supported the H-1 Widening Project for Waimalu.

AIEA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 20
 C/O NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
 CITY HALL
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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